

Claims

- 5 1. Method for processing two or more initially decoded (21,
22, 23) audio signals received or replayed from a bit-
stream, that each have a different number of channels
and/or different channel configurations, and that are
combined by mixing (27) and/or switching (28) before be-
10 ing presented (20) in a final channel configuration,
wherein to each one of said initially decoded audio sig-
nals a corresponding specific channel configuration in-
formation item (ChannelConfig) is attached and the chan-
nel configuration information items for said two or more
15 initially decoded audio signals can demand channel con-
figurations conflicting with each other, characterised in
that said mixing (27) and/or switching (28) is controlled
such that in case of non-matching number of channels
and/or non-matching types of channel configurations the
20 number of the channels to be output and/or the configura-
tion type of the channels to be output following said
mixing and/or said switching is determined by related
specific mixing and/or switching information (278) pro-
vided from a content provider or broadcaster and that is
25 embedded in said bitstream,
and in that to the combined data stream to be presented a
correspondingly updated channel configuration information
item is attached (30).
- 30 2. Method according to claim 1, wherein said bitstream has
MPEG-4 format.
- 35 3. Apparatus for processing two or more initially decoded
audio signals received or replayed from a bitstream, that
each have a different number of channels and/or different
channel configurations, and that are combined by mixing
and/or switching before being presented in a final chan-
nel configuration,

5 wherein to each one of said initially decoded audio signals a corresponding specific channel configuration information item (ChannelConfig) is attached and the channel configuration information items for said two or more initially decoded audio signals can demand channel configurations conflicting with each other, said apparatus including:

- 10 - at least two audio data decoders (21, 22, 23) that initially decode audio data received or replayed from said bitstream;
- means (24-28) for processing the audio signals initially decoded by said audio data decoders, wherein at least two
15 of said decoded audio signals each have a different number of channels and/or a different channel configuration, and wherein said processing includes combination by mixing (27) and/or switching (28);
- means (20) for presenting the combined audio signals in a
20 final channel configuration, wherein in said processing means (24-28) said mixing (27) and/or switching (28) is controlled such that in case of non-matching number of channels and/or non-matching types of channel configurations the number of the channels to
25 be output and/or the configuration type of the channels to be output following said mixing and/or said switching is determined by related specific mixing and/or switching information (278) provided from a content provider or broadcaster and that is embedded in said bitstream;
- 30 means (30) for attaching to the combined data stream fed to said presenting means (20) a correspondingly updated channel configuration information item.

- 35 4. Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said bitstream has MPEG-4 format.